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THE PUNISHER 2099
THE FALL OF THE HAMMER
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THE PUNISHER 2099
FALL OF THE HAMMER : CONCLUSION!
ALL FOR ONE
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SO WHAT ARE WE SUPPOSED TO SAY...? "ALL FOR ONE AND ONE FOR ALL..."
I SEE YOUR POINT. NONE OF US ARE EXACTLY TEAM PLAYERS.
NO OFFENSE, BUT I'M A PROFESSIONAL. I DON'T HANG OUT WITH COSTUMED AMATEURS!
CIRCUM-STANCES HAVE FORCED YOUR HAND. WE MUST BECOME A TEAM, LIKE IT OR NOT!

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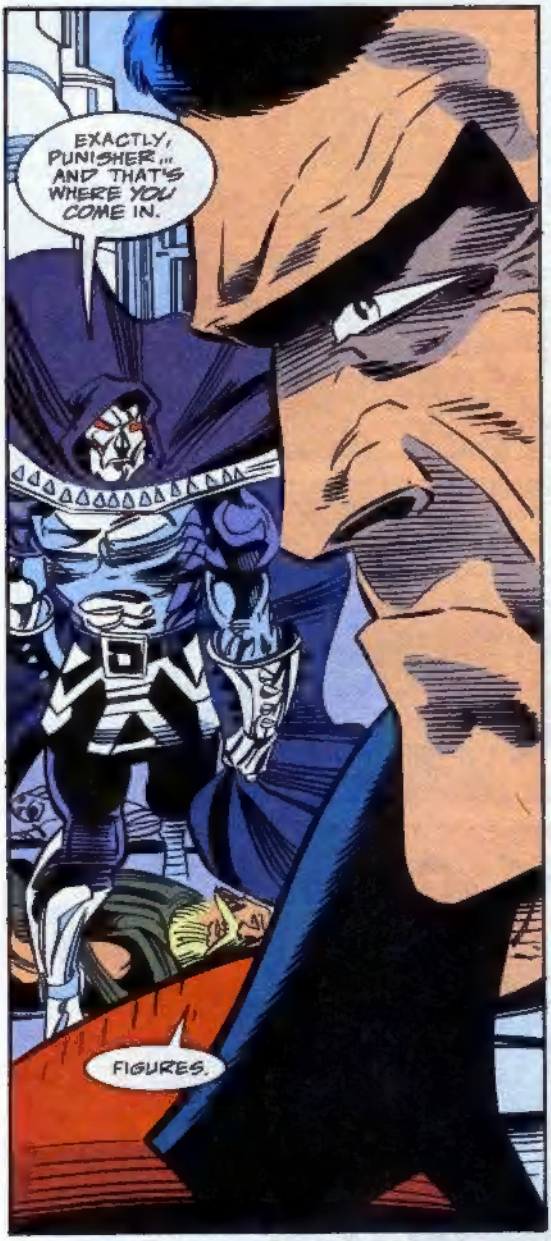
'SCUSE ME IF I DON'T JUST NOW BURST INTO THE TEAM SONG. THE VISITING TEAM'S ARRIVED!
WHO ARE THESE GUYS?
I RECOGNIZE THEM FROM THE DISC I STOLE FROM ALCHEMAX. THEY'RE CALLED...
...BERSERKERS... GENETICALLY CREATED WARRIORS, A FIRST WAVE ATTACK FORCE DESIGNED TO WEAKEN THE ENEMY... DESTINED TO DIE GLORIOUSLY!
THAT EXPLAINS THEIR STRANGE BEHAVIOR...
...THE WAY THEY'RE HEAD-BUTTING EACH OTHER... AND BITING THE RAILINGS!
WELL, BITE THIS, CREEP!

PUNISHER! BEHIND YOU!
THANKS! I OWE YOU ONE!
ONE WHAT? KICK IN THE HEAD? SURE, ANYTIME!
SORRY TO INTERRUPT YOUR BANTER, BUT I SUGGEST YOU ALL LISTEN CAREFULLY...
...THERE IS A WAY OF SAVING NEW YORK AND VALHALLA IF YOU DO EXACTLY AS I SAY.
DON'T BOTHER THESE MEATHEADS WITH TECHNICAL DETAILS, DOOM... AT LEAST I KNOW THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN AN OPTIC TRANSDUCER AND A U-238 SOLENOID!
COLLEGE TECHNOSPEAK WON'T SAVE YOUR SORRY BUTT WHEN THE AESIR GET HERE.
OUCH! NOW I KNOW HOW THE X-MEN FELT WHEN I WAS TELLING THEM WHAT TO DO!

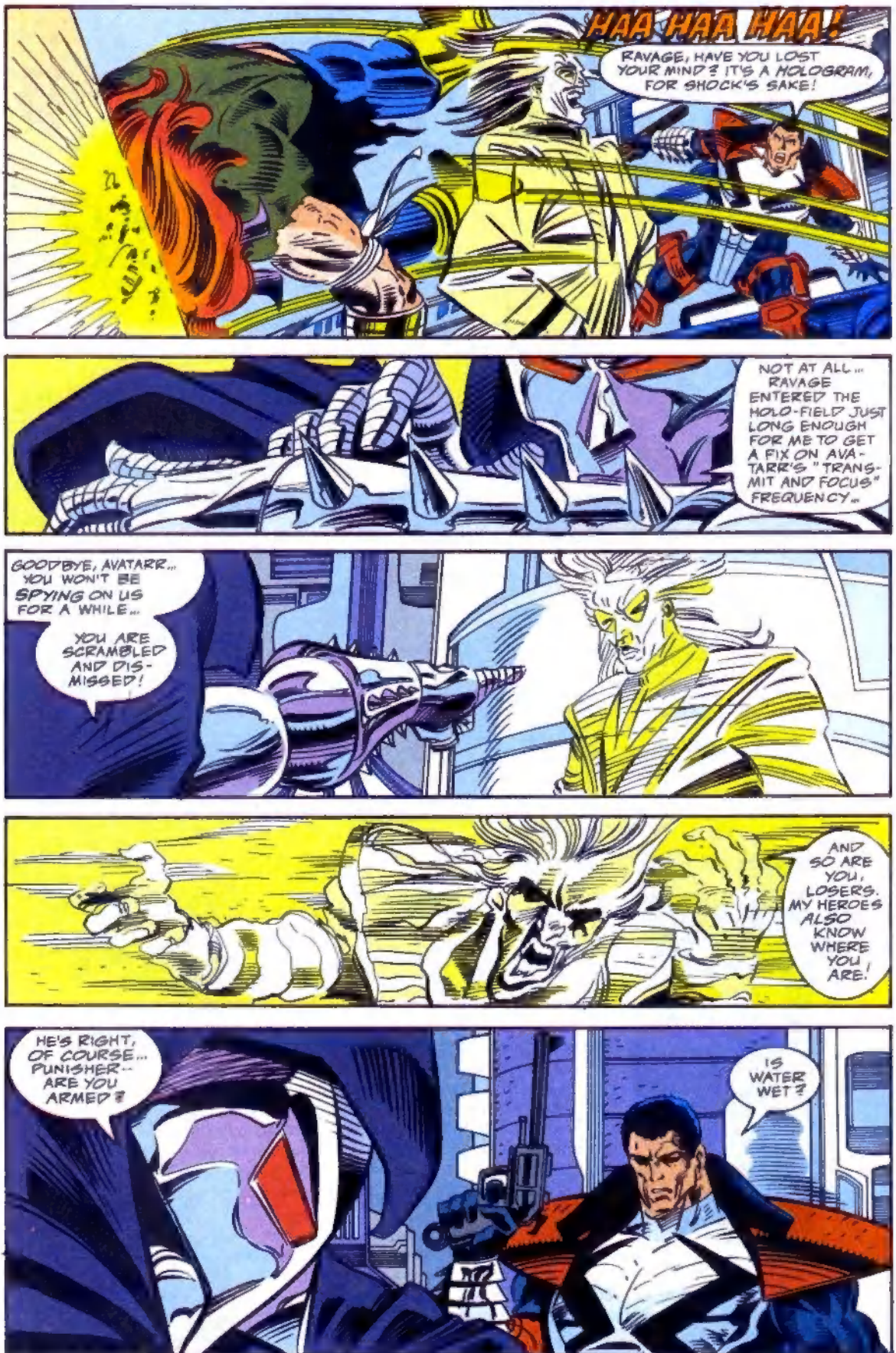

EXACTLY, PUNISHER... AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN.
FIGURES.

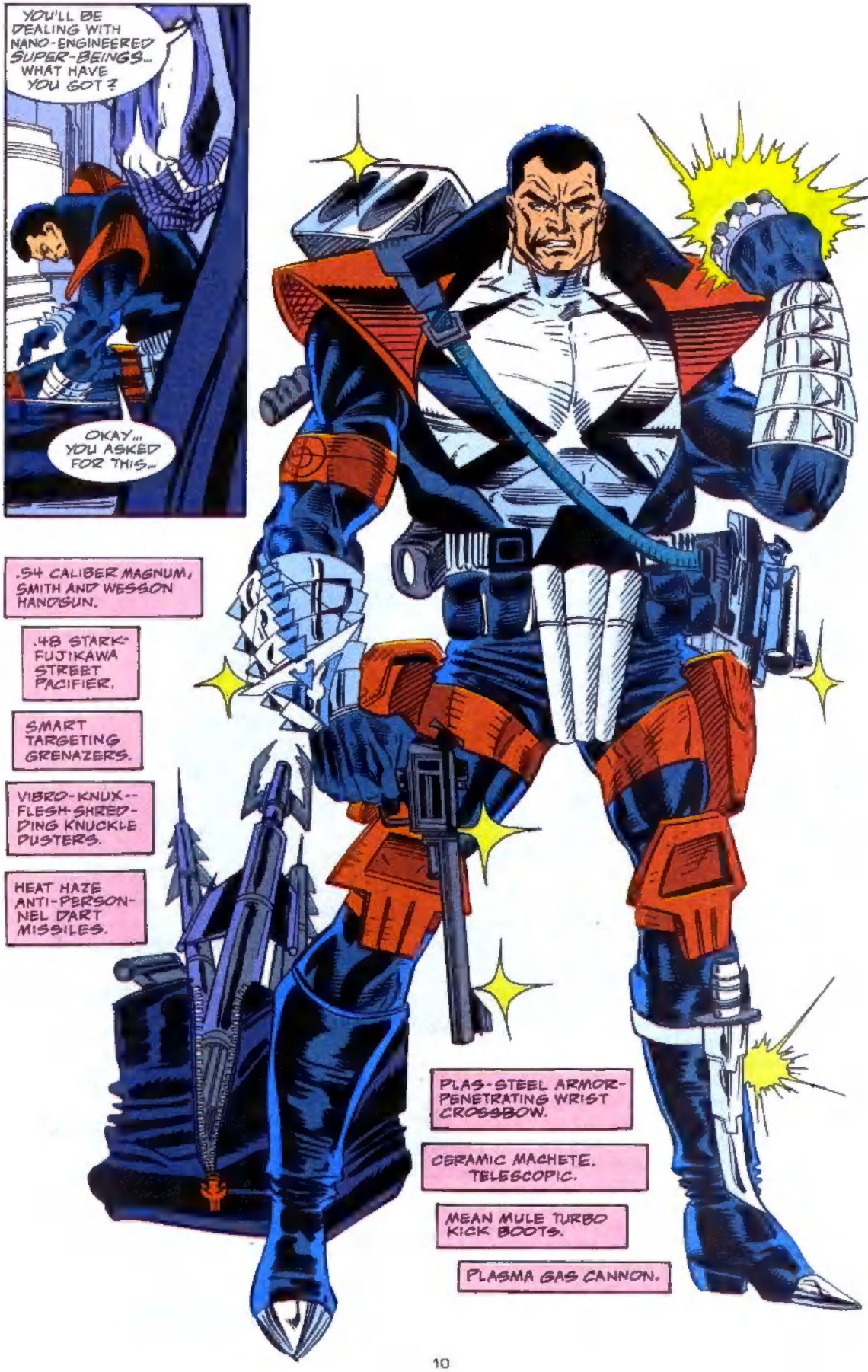
YOU AND I, RAVAGE, WILL DESCEND TO THE ANTI-GRAV CHAMBER... WHERE I WILL REMOVE THE STASIS FIELD FROM THE LONG-WAVE GENERATORS...
YOU HAVE TO DESTROY THEM AT EXACTLY THE MOMENT I REROUTE THE CITY'S POWER INTO MY NULL-G WARP MATRIX.
SURE, AND ACCORDING TO YOU, VALHALLA WILL JUST FLOAT RIGHT ON--

--RATHER THAN CRUISE STRAIGHT INTO MANHATTAN.

SO WHAT'S MY ROLE IN ALL THIS?
YOU PASS THE SCREWDRIVER AND MAKE THE COFFEE.
YOU'RE WRONG TO PUT PUNISHER DOWN. I KNOW HIS SECRET IDENTITY AND HE IS NO STRANGER TO HIGH TECH.
YOU'VE GOT A DAY JOB, HUH? WHAT DO YOU DO, BEEFCAKE? FIX VENDING MACHINES?

LOOK AT YOU ALL SQUABBLING...!
SO THIS IS YOUR TEAM, DOOM... YOU BELIEVE THIS IS A MATCH FOR MY HEROES OF VALHALLA?
AVATARR!
HOW CONVENIENT OF YOU TO ASSEMBLE FOR ME... HOLDING A CONVENTION, ARE YOU?
I CREATED VALHALLA AS A BASE FOR THE HEROES WHO WOULD DESTROY YOU...
...AND LEAD MANKIND ALONG MORE PRODUCTIVE LINES...
I NEVER IMAGINED YOU'D FLY STRAIGHT INTO THE CENTER OF MY WEB... BUT THEN I'M ALWAYS OVER-ESTIMATING PEOPLE'S INTELLIGENCE.
MY INTELLIGENCE IS INESTIMABLE AS YOU WILL DISCOVER TO YOUR COST.
WHY ARE WE EVEN TALKING TO THIS JERK? IT'S GORING TIME!


HAA HAA HAA!
RAVAGE, HAVE YOU LOST YOUR MIND? IT'S A HOLOGRAM, FOR SHOCK'S SAKE!
NOT AT ALL... RAVAGE ENTERED THE HOLO-FIELD JUST LONG ENOUGH FOR ME TO GET A FIX ON AVATARR'S "TRANSMIT AND FOCUS" FREQUENCY...
GOODBYE, AVATARR... YOU WON'T BE SPYING ON US FOR A WHILE...
YOU ARE SCRAMBLED AND DISMISSED!
AND SO ARE YOU, LOSERS. MY HEROES ALSO KNOW WHERE YOU ARE!
HE'S RIGHT, OF COURSE... PUNISHER... ARE YOU ARMED?
IS WATER WET?

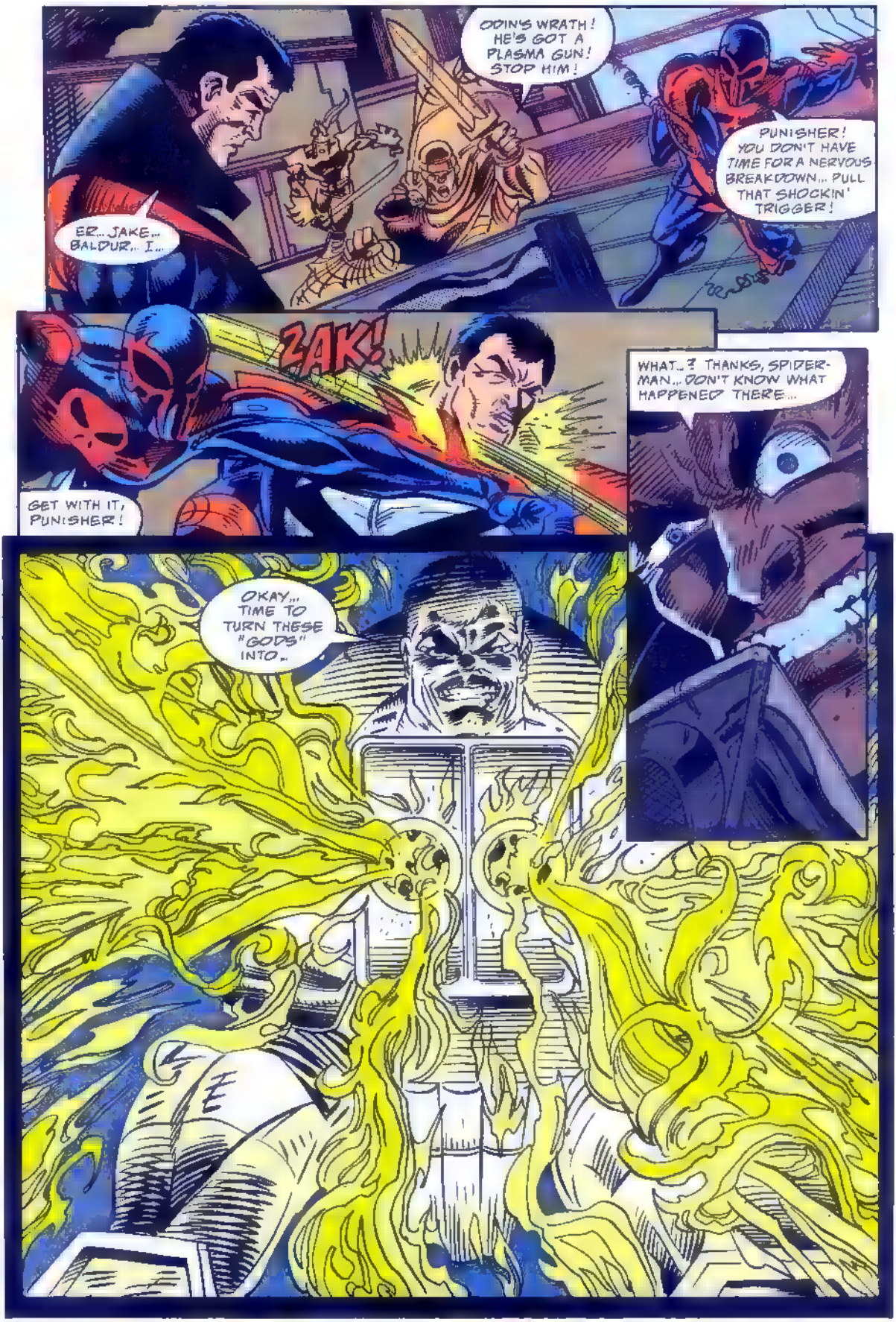

YOU'LL BE DEALING WITH NANO-ENGINEERED SUPER-BEINGS... WHAT HAVE YOU GOT?
OKAY... YOU ASKED FOR THIS...
.54 CALIBER MAGNUM, SMITH AND WESSON HANDGUN.
.48 STARK-FUJIKAWA STREET PACIFIER.
SMART TARGETING GRENAZERS.
VIBRO-KNUX -- FLESH-SHREDDING KNUCKLE DUSTERS.
HEAT HAZE ANTI-PERSONNEL DART MISSILES.
PLAS-STEEL ARMOR-PENETRATING WRIST CROSSBOW.
CERAMIC MACHETE. TELESCOPIC.
MEAN MULE TURBO KICK BOOTS.
PLASMA GAS CANNON.

OH, YEAH... AND MY POWER BAT... VARIABLE DENSITY...
RAVAGE WILL TELL YOU HOW THAT FEELS.
IMPRESSIVE. I THOUGHT YOU WERE DANGEROUS, BUT I NEVER IMAGINED YOU CARRIED SUCH FIREPOWER.
UNBELIEVABLE. YOU'RE A ONE MAN ARMY.
WOW! LIKE, YOU'RE SICK, MAN...
...YOU NEED HELP.
PRECISELY SO, SPIDER-MAN... AND THAT'S WHERE YOU COME IN... YOU'RE GOING WITH THE PUNISHER.
NOW THAT AVATARR'S SEEN US ASSEMBLED, THERE'S NO WAY HE'S GOING TO LET US SAVE THE CITY.
YEAH -- THE GUY'S UNBALANCED... HE'S HOPING FOR SOME KIND OF RAGNAROK...
I IMAGINE THE AESIR ARE ON THEIR WAY EVEN NOW. I JUST HOPE THAT, TOGETHER, YOU CAN DEAL WITH THEM...
CAN'T PROMISE TO "DEAL" WITH THEM. BUT I'LL SURE KILL A FEW...
AS YOU WILL... AND MEANWHILE RAVAGE AND I WILL TACKLE THE GENERATORS.

HERE WE GO..! HEIMDALL AND BALDUR -- WHOEVER THESE MEN REALLY ARE, THEY'RE NOT WORTHY OF THE NAMES.
ABOUT THAT -- I KNOW WHAT I'M DOING UP HERE ..BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS YOUR BEEF WITH THESE PEOPLE, PUNISHER?
I DIDN'T THINK THE PUNISHER HAD A PERSONAL LIFE!
IT'S PERSONAL.
HE DOESN'T.
BUT JAKE GALLOWS DOES...
HIS BROTHER WAS NAMED BALDUR... AND THESE PEOPLE ARE ON THE SAME SIDE AS THE FEAR-MASTER WHO KILLED JAKE'S GIRL-FRIEND -- KERRY.
GALLOWS WILL THANK ME FOR THIS.

I KNOW NOT WHAT MOTIVATES YOU VIGILANTES TO STAND AGAINST US, BUT THE MIGHTY HEIMDALL HAS REGAINED HIS POWERS SUFFICIENT TO DEAL WITH YOU!
YOU'RE UP AGAINST REAL HEROES NOW!
YOU CALL YOURSELVES HEROES? BEING A HERO IS MORE THAN HAVING A COSTUME AND A SUPER POWER!
WAIT A MINUTE, PUN! I'M A COSTUME AND A SUPER-POWER...
...AH, BUT I'M ONE OF THE GOOD GUYS, I GUESS.
YOU FOOLS SHALL NOT STAND IN THE WAY OF THINGS TOO GLORIOUS FOR YOU TO COMPREHEND!
GOTTA TAKE THE BLOW...
AAAGH!
WHY, PUNISHER--YOU SAVED ME! AND ON OUR FIRST DATE!

SHOCK! HE HAS A "TRICK" SWORD. IT HARDLY NOTICED MY ARMOR...
IT ALMOST CUT THROUGH TO THE BONE.
FOR THE COMMON HERD TO FOLLOW US, WE MUST GAIN THEIR ATTENTION...!
DESTROYING THE PUNISHER AND SPIDER-MAN SHOULD SEE TO THAT!
I'VE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS... THE PLASMA GAS CANNON-- IT'LL TURN THEIR FLESH TO HAIR SPRAY...
PUNISHER--IT'S ME-- JAKE... YOU CAN'T DO THIS... YOU'RE NOT A MURDERER!
PUNISHER! WHAT'S WRONG WITH YOU?! IF YOU'RE GOING TO DO SOMETHING, DO IT NOW!
GET OUT OF MY HEAD, GALLOWS! WE MURDERED PLENTY -- THERE MUST BE JUSTICE...!
BUT YOU WERE BROUGHT UP A THORIST... AND YOUR BROTHER WAS NAMED AFTER BALDUR... YOU CAN'T KILL A GOD...


ODIN'S WRATH! HE'S GOT A PLASMA GUN! STOP HIM!
PUNISHER! YOU DON'T HAVE TIME FOR A NERVOUS BREAKDOWN... PULL THAT SHOCKIN' TRIGGER!
ER... JAKE... BALDUR... I...
ZAK!
GET WITH IT, PUNISHER!
WHAT...? THANKS, SPIDER-MAN... DON'T KNOW WHAT HAPPENED THERE...
OKAY... TIME TO TURN THESE "GODS" INTO...

"...SOOT!"
THWOOSH
THAT'S TAKEN CARE OF TWO OF THE HEAVIES... BUT VALHALLA'S RIGHT OVER NEW YORK!
YEAH... AND WE BOTH KNOW THAT WHATEVER'S UNDER VALHALLA DIES,
JUST HOPE DOOM AND RAVAGE CAN DEAL WITH THE LIFTERS IN TIME...!
THE NULL-G WARP MATRIX IS ON-LINE. ARE YOU READY, RAVAGE?
ARE YOU KIDDING? I'VE BEEN LOOKING FORWARD TO THIS...
VERY WELL... REMEMBER, POWER WILL AUTOMATICALLY SHUNT INTO THE MATRIX THE SECOND YOU DESTROY THE GENERATORS...

ON MY MARK... FIVE... FOUR... THREE... TWO... ONE...
"...ZERO!"
GRAAAGGH!
WELL, WHAT DO YOU KNOW...? WE'RE STILL IN THE AIR... YOUR PLAN WORKED, DOC!
OF COURSE IT WORKED... AND THE NEW SYSTEM IS HARMLESS TO LIFE BELOW...

IS THE CITY NAVIGABLE?
I HAVE FORESEEN ALL EVENTUALITIES, RAVAGE. THE MAG-LEV AND GRAVITRON PARTICLE VORTICES ARE...
JUST GIVE ME A STRAIGHT ANSWER!
YES. SOON THE CITY SHALL RISE INTO THE CLOUDS WHERE IT WILL NO LONGER BE A THREAT!
NAY! THERE MUST BE A RAGNAROK! THE MORTALS MUST SUFFER THE WRATH OF THE GODS!
NO MERE HUMAN CAN RULE VALHALLA! I SHALL BRING IT DOWN!
THE HAMMER MUST FALL!
YOU FOOL! NO!
"THE ENERGY IS UNFOCUSED... IT'S RIPPING OUT THROUGH THE DECKS!"

"VALHALLA WILL DESTROY NEW YORK!"
SOMETHING'S GONE WRONG... CRACKLING ENERGY ISN'T THE WAY DOOM RAN IT DOWN TO ME.
"RAGNAROK IS AT HAND!"
THE MIDGARD SERPENT! THE POWER OF MY HAMMER HAS RELEASED IT! VALHALLA SHALL KISS THE EARTH!

WHAT HAVE YOU DONE? WHAT HAVE YOU DONE!!?
MILLIONS WILL DIE BECAUSE OF YOUR THORIST INSANITY!
IT WILL BE A CLEANSING! A NEW BEGINNING! ASGARD SHALL RISE FROM THE ASHES OF DESTRUCTION!
PUNISHER! TAKE HIS HAMMER!
THROW IT AT THE HEAD OF THE VORTEX! IT WILL GROUND THE POWER BACK INTO THE CITY!

NAY! YOU CANNOT THWART THE WILL OF THE GOD OF THUNDER! MIGHTIEST OF THE AESIR!
WAIT A MINUTE! THE WAY YOU SAID THAT... I KNOW WHO YOU ARE... YOU'RE CECIL McADAM-- OUR PARISH PRIEST...
NAY! I- I AM THOR... VALHALLA'S FINEST SON!
CECIL... IT'S ME-- JAKE GALLOWS... REMEMBER? I'VE KNOWN YOU ALL MY LIFE...
JAKE...?
WHAT'S HAPPENING TO YOU, CECIL? WHAT DID THEY DO TO YOUR MIND? HAVE YOU ANY IDEA WHAT YOU'VE BECOME?
I... I...

TEAMWORK. I'D NEVER HAVE WRESTLED THE HAMMER FROM HIS GRIP.
THAT'S IT, THOR-- YOU JUST STAY CONFUSED.
"NOW TO DEAL WITH THE 'MIDGARD SERPENT.' "
THE ENERGY UPDRAFT HAS CAUGHT ME IN ITS COILS...
GOTTA PULL MYSELF FREE AND...
NOOO!

AAACHHH
IS THE PUNISHER STILL ALIVE ?
UNLIKELY-- NO ONE COULD SURVIVE SUCH A BLAST.
SNFF! SNFF! HE'S ALIVE... OKAY...HE'S COMING TO...

A PLAYER CAN'T BECOME ONE OF HIS PIECES... IT SPOILS THE GAME AND REDUCES HIS CHANCE OF WINNING... IT'S NOT THE RULES WE OPERATE UNDER.
A GRAND MASTER INFLUENCES EVENTS FROM ABOVE.
IS THAT SO? WELL, YOU STILL LOST!
THAT'S WHY I'M CHANGING THE RULES... PERHAPS I SHOULD SHOW YOU THE FATE I HAVE IN STORE FOR YOU...
RECOGNIZE YOUR MOLECULAR DISINTEGRATOR? LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE ABOUT TO BE FRIED...!
GOODBYE, PUNISHER!
DON'T COMFORT YOURSELF WITH THE THOUGHT THAT ONCE YOU'VE SEEN YOUR DESTINY, YOU CAN ALTER IT... YOU CAN'T! NOT WHEN I'M GUIDING YOUR FUTURE.
NEXT TIME YOU SEE ME, I WON'T BE A HOLOGRAM!
NEXT BATTLE IN THIS WAR - YOU ALL DIE!
STARTING WITH YOU, PUNISHER!
WILL AVATARR'S PROPHECY COME TRUE? FIND OUT NEXT ISH... AS THE PUNISHER'S WAR GOES ON AGAINST A BRANDNEW VILLAIN!